

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

MC-02 IGA-02 /061 W

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R 261107Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2587

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

/CINCPAC HONOLULU

JCS

DIA WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 24022

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652:GDS

TAGS: MMOL, MILL, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: U.S. RESIDUAL ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND - AIT

REF: (A) STATE 206952 (B) BANGKOK 23367 (C) STATE 197309

1. TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THAI ON AIT ARE CONTINUING, AS FOLLOWING COMMENTS INDICATE, IT IS TOO SOON FOR US TO ESTIMATE WHEN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED. WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROCEED CAREFULLY ON THIS MATTER, WHICH HAS AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THAI-U.S. RELATIONS. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT MOA TRANSMITTED REF C.

2. RTARF HAS REQUESTED THAT WE CHANGE ALL REFERENCES TO SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) AND SCHQ (FWD) TO SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (SCHQ) WHEREVER THEY APPEAR. SCHQ (FWD) IS AN ELEMENT OF SCHQ.

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3. IN PARA 1 OF REF C, CHANGE AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION FROM 14,480

SHORT TONS TO 14,500. AS FIGURE IS APPROXIMATE IN ANY CASE, BOTH SIDES BELIEVE THAT THREE SIGNIFICANT DIGITS ARE ADEQUATE.

4. IN PARA 3, THAI ARE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT PURCHASE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS, WHICH THEY FIND RIGID AND DEMANDING. THEY ARE STUDYING WAYS TO MEET THE SCHEDULE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A COUNTERPROPOSAL SHORTLY.

5. CONCERNING PARA 5, THAI WISH TO DELETE LAST SENTENCE CONCERNING RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES, WHICH THEY FEAR WILL CAUSE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH COMPLICATED PREVIOUS PHASES OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. THEY TAKE THE POSITION THAT AIT PERSONNEL ARE JUSMAG PERSONNEL AND AS SUCH ALREADY HAVE THE REQUIRED RIGHTS. THEY SUGGEST THAT LAST SENTENCE READ AS FOLLOWS: "ALL U.S. PERSONNEL IN THAILAND IN SUPPORT OF THE AIT PROGRAM WILL BE ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO JUSMAGTHAI." MISSION CONCURS IN THIS FORMULATION.

6. WORDS IN FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 8 "RTARF AMMUNITION STORAGE DEPOT (KASD)" SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "KORAT AMMUNITION STORAGE DETACHMENT (KASD)."

7. THAI WISH TO CHANGE THIRD SENTENCE OF PARA 9 TO READ, "JUSMAGTHAI MAY, AFTER NOTIFICATION OF THE RTARF SCHQ, FROM TIME TO TIME WITHDRAW AIT STOCKS FROM THAILAND." WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS CHANGE.

8. IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 12, WE AGREE THAT ADDING THE WORD "RETENTION" AFTER THE FIRST WORD IN THE SENTENCE WILL HELP TO CLARIFY WHICH COSTS ARE BEING DISCUSSED.

9. WE BELIEVE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 13 SHOULD BE DELETED AS REDUNDANT. WE HAVE SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 8.

10. THE THAI PROPOSE CHANGING THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 16 TO READ, "THE U.S. AIT ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER AND THE RTARF KASD COMMANDER WILL CONDUCT A JOINT INVENTORY AND INFORM THE AID COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN WRITING OF THE ITEMS, QUANTITIES ON HAND AND CONDITION CODES OF THE AIT STOCK." WE CONCUR WITH
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THIS CHANGE. THE JOINT INVENTORY IS OVER 50 PERCENT COMPLETE AT THIS TIME.

11. A PROBLEM WHICH CONTINUES TO BOTHER US IN THAT OF MAINTENANCE. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN TEXT, PARA 3 OF COMMENTARY IN REF C STATES THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE MUST RESIDE WITH USG AS LONG AS THE AMMUNITION IS USG-TITLED. JUSMAGTHAI SIMPLY HAS NO CAPABILITY FOR AMMUNITION MAINTENANCE. THE CURRENT

STOCK STATUS REPORTS REFLECT 99.6 PERCENT OF THE AIT STOCKS ARE IN A SERVICEABLE CONDITION AND 0.4 PERCENT IN A CONDITION CODE E (UNSERVICEABLE, LIMITED RESTORATION). IF IN THE FUTURE IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH AN AMMUNITION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, TDY ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED. JUSMAG IS SUBMITTING SEPARATE MESSAGE ON MAINTENANCE PROBLEM THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

12. WE BELIEVE THE THAI ARE WORKING ON THE AIT PROBLEM IN GOOD FAITH. THEY WANT THE STOCKS BUT ARE SIMPLY HAVING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING FOR PURCHASE. THEY FULLY UNDERSTAND THE AIT WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO THEM AND THAT THEY CAN ONLY ACQUIRE IT THROUGH PURCHASE. MISSION WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS WE CAN OBTAIN A CLEARER READING ON WHEN WE CAN EXPECT THE AGREEMENT TO BE CONCLUDED.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, AMMUNITION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO24022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760326-0003
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760818/aaaaapiu.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 206952, 76 BANGKOK 23367, 76 STATE 197309
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. RESIDUAL ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND - AIT
TAGS: MMOL, MILI, PFOR, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006